

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-14 MCT-01 DHA-02
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R 141256Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8783
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4575

USIA FOR INA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XF
SUBJECT: VANCE MIDDLE EAST TOUR: KUWAITI PRESS REACTION AUG.
11-13

KUWAITI DAILIES CARRIED THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL COMMENT ON
THE WINDUP OF SECRETARY VANCE'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP AND RELATED
MATTERS:

A. AR-RAI AL-AM SAID (AUG. 11) THAT THE AUG. 10 SOVIET
STATEMENT, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD "BOYCOTT"
THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IF THE PLO IS NOT PRESENT, WAS A BIG
SURPRISE. THE WRITER ASSERTED THAT THE STATEMENT AROSE FROM
THE RUSSIAN DISCOVERY THAT THE SUGGESTIONS BEING MADE TO
THE ARABS BY VANCE SERVE TO KEEP THE SOVIETS AWAY FROM THE
AREA, THEREBY STRENGTHENING AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN THE
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MIDDLE EAST. THE WRITER CONCLUDED THAT THE "SOVIETS"
ANNOUNCED SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINIANS WAS NOT CAUSED
BY THEIR LOVE FOR THE PALESTINIANS BUT TO THWART THE
AMERICANS."

B. AL-QABAS OF AUGUST 13, IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED
"WILL AMERICA'S FLIRTING (WITH THE ARABS) CONTINUE?",

EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE UNITED STATES, IN THE PERSON OF PRES. CARTER, HAS BEGUN TO BE AWARE OF "TEL AVIV'S GAMES."

C. AL-ANBA OF AUGUST 13 ASSERTED THAT THE ISRAELI ATTACK AGAINST SOUTH LEBANON "A FEW HOURS AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF VANCE FROM LEBANON" INDICATES THAT THE SECRETARY HAD PROBABLY CONFRONTED THE ISRAELI LEADERS WITH PLANS NOT TO THEIR LIKEING. THE WRITER ALLEGED THAT ISRAEL WAS SURPRISED BY THE NEW AMERICAN POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AND THE SUCCESS OF ARAB DIPLOMACY, AND THAT IT REACTED IN SOUTH LEBANON TO "SHAKE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE ARABS AND CONVINCE THEM THAT THE US WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PUT A STOP TO ISRAELI AGGRESSIVE ACTS."

D. AL-ANBA OF AUGUST 12 CLAIMED THAT THE "DIS-AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US SECRETARY OF STATE AND ISRAEL'S BEGIN HAS NOW BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE," AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE OUTCOME OF THIS DISAGREEMENT "WOULD BE EMBODIED IN AMERICAN DECISIONS THAT COULD SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE GROWING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES."

E. THE KUWAIT TIMES OF AUG. 13 CHARGED THAT THE "VANCE MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST FAILED," BECAUSE THE US DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER AND RESOURCES TO "BRING ABOUT" UNCLASSIFIED

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PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT ALSO ASSERTED THAT THE "WORKING GROUP" IDEA WAS A "BIG POWER CHAUVINISTIC EFFORT AIMED AT KEEPING OTHER BIG POWERS OUT OF THE PEACEMAKING EFFORT."

F. THE ARAB TIMES OF AUG. 13 ASSERTED THAT OPTIMISM ABOUT THE CONVENING OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE IS MISPLACED, SINCE ISRAEL IS "AN INTRANSIGENT AS EVER" ON PLO AND WEST BANK ISSUES, AND "IT WILL BE A MIRACLE IF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS EVER RECONVENED--NOT UNLESS THERE IS A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE ISRAELIS." TIME WILL TELL IF PRES. CARTER HAS THE COURAGE TO DEFY THE ZIONIST LOBBY IN HIS OWN COUNTRY AND TO FORCE BEGIN... TO ADMIT THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE FACED AT ANY FUTURE CONFERENCE TABLE."

G. AR-RAI AL-AM OF AUGUST 13 CHARGED THAT "VANCE CAME TO THE REGION KNOWING THAT HIS MISSION WILL FAIL BUT CARRIED IT OUT TO PROVE THE "EFFECTIVE" AMERICAN ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND SO HE PROPOSED SHIFTING THE SCENE...TO NEW YORK TO EMPHASIZE THE AMERICAN ROLE... AND TO HIGHLIGHT THE ABSOLUTE CONFIDANCE WHICH ARAB

FRIENDS HAVE PLACED IN THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION..."
"DESPITE ARAB TRUST...AMERICA CAN'T BE IMPARTIAL BECAUSE
OF ITS STRATEGY AND INTERESTS.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

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